



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

S/S

3 NOV 1977

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TO: The Deputy Secretary

FROM: ARA - William P. Stedman, Acting

SUBJECT: Your Meeting with Argentine Deputy Foreign Minister, Navy Captain Gualter Allara - Friday, November 4 - 3:30 pm

PARTICIPANTS

US

The Deputy Secretary
Assistant Secretary Todman
ARA/ECA - James Bumpus
(notetaker)

(interpreter)

ARGENTINA

Deputy Foreign Minister,
Navy Captain Gualter Allara
Ambassador Jorge Aja Espil
Minister Carlos Arlia
Minister Miguel Espeche Gil

KEY ISSUES

1. The Secretary's Visit

U.S. Objective: The United States views the visit as an opportunity to continue the bilateral conversations begun at the time of the Panama Canal Treaty Signing Ceremony between Presidents Carter and Videla.

Argentine Objective: To demonstrate that Argentina is a responsible, prominent member of the world community.

Essential Factors: President Carter's bilateral with President Videla centered on human rights and nuclear non-proliferation. We expect that those again will be the main topics when Secretary Vance visits Argentina. Allara's talk with you probably will concentrate on human rights. He will have been at the UNGA and the OAS where he has pushed strongly for inclusion of a condemnation of terrorism in any consideration of human rights. (The

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Argentines claim human rights violations by governments are often a reaction to terrorism.)

A recent upsurge in terrorism in Argentina probably will be mentioned by Allara; two Armed Forces officers were assassinated, three businessmen were killed and the office of the Labor Minister and the home of a Chrysler executive were bombed within the last two weeks.

President Videla told President Carter that he hoped to have resolved the cases of some 4,000 political detainees by Christmas. The government has made little noticeable progress in this endeavor; the right of option, which was restored in late September, has not led to numerous prisoners released. We believe there may be as few as twenty who have actually left the country.

President Videla personally wrote President Carter in October informing him of the status of the Deutsch family, a case that had been discussed during the bilateral. The Argentines released three of the family members and will try two in military courts.

Points to be Made

-- We appreciated the frank and candid exchange of opinions carried on between Presidents Carter and Videla at their bilateral in September.

-- We look forward to a continuation of this dialogue when the Secretary visits Argentina.

-- We regret the recent upsurge of terrorist activity in Argentina, but we cannot condone those actions as justifying counterterrorist measures that violate human rights.

-- President Videla told President Carter that he hoped to have resolved by Christmas the cases of the some 4,000 political detainees. We hope this will be possible.

-- How does the Argentine government now view the situation of the detainees.

-- We are still troubled by reports of torture in Argentina.

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-- We continue to hear of disappearances. These are of great concern to us and to the Congress, which is evidencing great interest in the human rights situation in Argentina.

-- In August, Interior Minister Harguendeguy stated that the government would investigate disappearance cases. We are unaware of the results of these investigations, but hope that progress has been made.

-- The cutoff of military training funds for Argentina in 1978 is a result of this concern.

-- Recently, we were able to approve export licenses for submarine periscopes and advisory opinions for the sale of three Chinook helicopters and two Lockheed KC-130 tanker aircraft. These were not easy decisions, and, of course, under the Humphrey/Kennedy Amendment such sales will no longer be possible after October 1, 1978, when Congress mandated a stop to arms sales.

-- We have disapproved other requests.

-- A recent U. S. negative vote in the Inter-American Development Bank of an Argentine loan for gas/pipeline was occasioned by human rights considerations, and we will continue to have difficulties with IFI loans.

-- Human rights will be only one of the topics considered. What other issues will Argentina wish to discuss?

Attachment:

Biographic Information

Drafted:ARA/ECA:JNBumpus:jc
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BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH

Captain Gualter Allara, Under Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is a tough and serious-minded naval officer and former submariner, who appears to have been brought on board to take on hard assignments and guide Ministry policy along the lines preferred by his Navy superiors. Somewhat taciturn, he tends to leave the talking to others, though he probably wields considerable power as second to Minister Montes. He understands some English but speaks none.

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TO: The Deputy Secretary IPS by [Signature] Date 11-3-77

FROM: ARA - William P. Stedman, Acting

SUBJECT: Additional Points That May be Raised
at Your Meeting with Argentine Deputy
Foreign Minister Allara - Nov. 4 - 3:30 pm

The Argentines informed us today that they are considering discussion of the following points when they meet with you:

1. A joint communique during the Secretary's November 21 visit to Argentina.
2. U. S. cooperation on the August, 1978 Argentine hosted UN Conference on Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries.
3. Cooperation with the U. S. on methods to control terrorism.
4. Cooperation with the U. S. on drug traffic control.
5. Cooperation with the U. S. on the establishment of a program to eradicate malnutrition in Latin America.
6. The reactivation of a Mixed U.S.-Argentine Economic Commission.

The breadth of topics and their late announcement to us makes full discussion difficult. However, the following information may clarify some of the Argentine positions:

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Joint Communique: The Argentines want the communique to give prestige to the visit. We would prefer not to have a communique.

UN Conference on Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries: The Argentines have been prime movers behind the Conference which will be held in August in Buenos Aires. It will discuss ways in which more developed LDCs can provide technical assistance to the least developed countries. We have no objection to technology transfer among LDCs but will oppose the Conference legitimizing use of LDC technology for its own sake in cases where DC technology is superior.

Control of Terrorism: For Argentina, a concentration on terrorism can be used to distract attention from their human rights problems.

Cooperation on Drug Control: We now cooperate closely with the Argentines on drug traffic, but would be interested to hear their comments on the issue.

Cooperation on the Establishment of a Program to Eradicate Malnutrition in Latin America: The United States has concentrated great attention on this problem. AID has extensive programs to combat malnutrition and the problem is of real concern to the United States. We can listen to the Argentine proposal.

Mixed U.S.-Argentine Economic Commission: We have agreed to meet with officials of the Foreign Ministry in early December to discuss bilateral economic and trade issues and to explore the possibility of reestablishing the Mixed Economic Commission as a continuing bilateral consultative group. (The Commission last met in July, 1967, but has been inactive since 1968.) We want to go slow on agreeing to enter into any permanent arrangement with the Argentines at this time.

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